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Environmental Cleanup Office

October 10, 2003

Chip Humphrey
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
811 SW 6th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Portland, OR 97204

Tara Martich
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave, M/S ECL-115
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Lower Willamette River, Portland Harbor Superfund Site
USEPA Docket No: CERCLA-10-2001-0240
Monthly Progress Report for September 2003



Dear Mr. Humphrey and Ms. Martich:

This monthly status report contains information required by the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Administrative Order on Consent.

1. ACTIONS TAKEN IN SEPTEMBER 2003

The following activities were taken in September 2003 to comply with the AOC:

- An explanation of issues related to RI/FS Work Plan Category 3a and 3b comments, and a list of technical memoranda to address Category 4 comments were prepared and submitted to EPA on September 5
- The Revised Interim Draft RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan and the schedule for submission of technical memoranda were prepared and submitted to EPA on September 26. This version of the Work Plan incorporated EPA's comments on Category 1, 2, 3a, and 4 issues.
- The August 2003 Monthly Progress Report was submitted to EPA.

2. RESULTS OF SAMPLING, TESTS AND OTHER DATA RECEIVED

- Validation of Round 1 sediment and tissue chemistry data continued.

3. SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

The work described in the AOC that is planned for the months of October and November 2003 includes:

- The LWG expects to complete the validation of Round 1 sediment and tissue chemistry data on October 1.
- Continue to monitor sediment stakes on a quarterly basis
- Prepare and submit the revised draft final RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan.
- Prepare and submit a revised Round 2A Field Sampling Plan following receipt of EPA comments.

Pending products currently under preparation by LWG and scheduled for submittal over the next two months are listed in Table 1.

4. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED, ANTICIPATED DELAYS AND SOLUTIONS

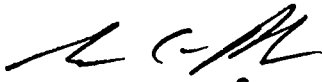
EPA and the LWG plan to meet in early October to discuss Category 3b comments. The LWG requested in a September 26, 2003 letter that EPA provide decisions on all of the Category 3b comment issues by October 14 in order for the LWG to have time to reasonably produce the revised draft final RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan by October 27. In that letter, the LWG also requested that if EPA is unable to provide decisions for all of the comments by October 14, that the LWG be given two weeks from the time that all comment decisions are received to finalize the Work Plan.

5. DOCUMENTS AND ISSUES AWAITING EPA RESPONSE

EPA comments or approvals have not been received on a number of milestones and documents that have been submitted to EPA as required by the AOC; these documents and milestones are listed in Table 2. The LWG requests document/milestone approvals to verify that the terms of the AOC are being met and issues are resolved to maintain progress on the RI/FS.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (206) 241-5185.

Sincerely,


Betsy Striplin *for*

RI/FS Coordinator

Copies: LWG Repository

Table 1. Status of LWG Products Pending Delivery to EPA (October/November 2003).

Deliverable/Milestone Description	Status	Review/Submittal Dates
Cultural Resources Technical Memorandum	Awaiting Statement of Work from EPA	Pending
Revised Draft Final RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan	<u>In preparation</u>	<u>October 27, 2003</u>
<u>Round 1 Tissue Sample Collection and Archive Information Summary Tables</u>	<u>In preparation</u>	<u>Planned for submittal on October 31, 2003</u>

Underline indicates text change from August 2003 Monthly Progress Report.

Table 2. Status of Portland Harbor Deliverables that are Under EPA Review (September 30, 2003).

Deliverable/Milestone Description	Date of Draft Deliverable or Request	Date EPA Comments Received	Status/Action Taken
Technical Memorandum: Proposed Database Approach	December 20, 2001	Pending	Pending
Technical Memorandum: Data Quality Objectives for Historical Data	December 20, 2001	Pending	Pending
STA/Historic Bathymetry Integration Report	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
SPI Survey	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
Historical Database	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
Written Approval Round 1 Field Activities	December 3, 2002	EPA initially requested and received summary of R1 Field activities. Submittal date February 28, 2003. EPA subsequently requested and received detailed field sampling report. Submittal date April 3, 2003.	Approved September 24, 2003
Plant and Amphibian Reconnaissance Survey Technical Memorandum	February 2003	Pending	Pending
Seep Reconnaissance Technical Memorandum	February 18, 2003	Pending	Pending
Summer 2002 Bathymetry Data Report	February 26, 2003	Pending	Pending
Summary of Round 1 Field Activities	February 28, 2003	Pending	Pending
Round 1 Field Sampling Report	March 14, 2003	September 24, 2003	Approved September 24, 2003

Table 2. Status of Portland Harbor Deliverables that are Under EPA Review (September 30, 2003).

Deliverable/Milestone Description	Date of Draft Deliverable or Request	Date EPA Comments Received	Status/Action Taken
Programmatic Work Plan	March 31, 2003	July 25, 2003	<u>Revised Interim Draft Work Plan submitted September 26, 2003</u>
Adult Lamprey Harvest Technical Memorandum	April 4, 2003	Pending	Pending
Hydrodynamic/Sedimentation Modeling Approach Technical Memorandum	April 4, 2003	Pending	Pending
Round 2A Field Sampling Plan	April 17, 2003	Pending	Pending
Proposed Fish Consumption Rates Technical Memorandum	May 9, 2003	Pending	Pending
2002 Sediment Stake Erosion/Accretion Monitoring Report	May 15, 2003	Pending	Pending
Response to EPA comments on Round 1 RI/FS Work Plan and Field Sampling Plan	May 16, 2003	Pending	Pending
(Revised) Benthic Analysis Approach Technical Memorandum	May 20, 2003	Draft submitted January 13, 2003; comments on draft received through verbal communications in management and subgroup meetings, as well as in written comments. Comments on revision pending.	Pending
Historical Chemistry Data Category Reclassification Technical Memorandum	May 30, 2003	Pending	Pending
Upland Groundwater Data Review Report	June 2, 2003	Pending	Pending

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Deliverable/Milestone Description	Date of Draft Deliverable or Request	Date EPA Comments Received	Status/Action Taken
Framework for Evaluating Exposure to the Benthic Community and Humans from Chemicals Transported in Groundwater	August 1, 2003	Pending	Pending
Verbal request from LWG for copies of Revised RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan comments from EPA partners	August 22, 2003	Pending	Pending
<u>Revised Interim Draft RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan</u>	<u>September 26, 2003</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Pending</u>

Underline indicates text change from August 2003 Monthly Progress Report.

Shading indicates action completed. Completed actions will be deleted after one month.